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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 29 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to you a declaration by the Heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member States on further efforts to counter international terrorism, signed on 16 September 2016 in Bishkek during the summit of CIS countries (see annex).

As Kyrgyzstan was the CIS Chair country in 2016, I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108.

(*Signed*) Mirgul **Moldoisaeva**
Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 29 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Decision of 16 September 2016 concerning the Declaration by the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the continuation of joint efforts to counter international terrorism

Bishkek

The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States has decided:

1. To adopt the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the continuation of joint efforts to counter international terrorism (attached).

2. To disseminate the text of this Declaration in the media of CIS member States.

3. To entrust the Kyrgyz Republic, as the State holding the presidency of the Commonwealth of Independent States, with circulating the text of the aforementioned statement at the United Nations and other international organizations.

On behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic
A. Atambaev

On behalf of the Republic of Armenia
S. Sargsyan

On behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan
I. Aliyev
with a dissenting opinion

On behalf of the Republic of Belarus
A. Lukashenko

On behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. Nazarbayev

On behalf of the Republic of Moldova
P. Filip
Prime Minister

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan
E. Rahmon

On behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan
A. Kamilov
Minister for Foreign Affairs

On behalf of the Russian Federation
V. Putin

On behalf of Turkmenistan

On behalf of Ukraine

Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the continuation of joint efforts to counter international terrorism

We, the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), in adopting this Declaration note with deep concern the growing threat of terrorism to international peace and to the security and sovereignty of States.

We declare our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasize that no acts of terrorism can be justified on ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or other grounds. Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

We believe that the killing of civilians, the wanton destruction by terrorists of historical and cultural heritage sites and the desecration of religious sites are incompatible with the norms of morality, humanism and spirituality.

Convinced of the need to consolidate the efforts of the entire international community in order to combat terrorism effectively, we express our solidarity with multilateral counter-terrorism efforts and support the establishment of a broad counter-terrorism coalition under the auspices of the United Nations on the basis of the norms and principles of international law. We call upon all States to comply fully with the relevant Security Council resolutions and provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and also to adopt the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

We consider it a priority to resolutely prevent the activities of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has defied our civilization and triggered brutal bloodshed in many countries and, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2249 (2015), constitutes a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security.

We emphasize the importance of compliance with the principles and norms of international law during counter-terrorism activities, and respect for the security interests of States confronted with the threat of terrorist organizations.

We acknowledge the growing security threats in the world related to increased activity by terrorist organizations and resulting in a spike in tension on the boundaries of CIS. We believe that enhancing cooperation within existing regional structures and broadening counter-terrorism cooperation among States at the political level, and at the level of the special services and relevant ministries and departments, will help to maintain stability in the territories of CIS member States.

We attach great importance to comprehensive measures to counter the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology, including by preventing terrorist and extremist propaganda, incitement and recruitment, including on the Internet; consistently stepping up cooperation for the detection and suppression of terrorism; and carrying out coordinated measures with regard to individuals who return to CIS member States after taking part in the actions and activities of international terrorist organizations as foreign terrorist fighters. We are convinced that, in order to bolster the immunity of individuals to radical ideas, it is important for civic structures, the media and religious communities to have the capacity to supplement efforts by the State.

We are convinced that effective counter-terrorism is possible only if the sources of its financing are reliably cut off, as required by pertinent Security Council resolutions and international standards of the Financial Action Task Force.

In the context of the comprehensive implementation of Security Council resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), we support the earliest possible start of joint efforts to identify specific States, individuals and entities with economic ties to ISIL and other terrorist groups, with the aim of preventing their criminal activities.

We oppose support for unconstitutional and illegal actions which might lead to the erosion of statehood in any country.

We reaffirm our common resolve to harness the potential of relevant CIS bodies to take effective action against international terrorism.

We also consider it necessary to develop synergies in other multilateral forums and bilaterally to ensure timely prevention and a robust response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Dissenting opinion of the Republic of Azerbaijan

With regard to the second paragraph of the Decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States concerning the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the continuation of joint efforts to counter international terrorism:

The Republic of Azerbaijan believes that in addition to collaboration on countering international terrorism, serious measures must also be taken to tackle separatism, which is a threat not only to peace and security, but also to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

I. **Aliyev**
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan